

# The Herald and News

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## Traffic Toll Nears 600, But Still Short Of Guess

**By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Early in the long holiday, with highway deaths occurring at a much faster pace than anticipated, it appeared the final count would be far greater than the estimate.

Belated reports today swelled the nation's toll of dead from traffic accidents over the four-day Christmas weekend to nearly 600.

Safety experts had expressed alarm at the slaughter on the highways from the start of the 102-hour holiday period at 6 p. m. Christmas Eve to late Saturday.

## Medics Toil To Save Foot Of Youth, 11

**DUNSMUIR** — Doctors labored Sunday to save the right foot of David Van Hardenberg, 11.

David, the son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Van Hardenberg, was playing brakeman with three companions near Scherrer Avenue Saturday afternoon according to railroad reports of the accident.

The National Safety Council was hopeful that the toll would not exceed its preholiday estimate of 620.

The second worst holiday for traffic deaths was the three-day Christmas period in 1955 when 609 persons were killed. It was the nation's worst record, on an hourly basis, a death every eight minutes.

There were several multiple death accidents during the long holiday weekend. Eight died in two crashes Sunday, including four young Milwaukee men in a smash-up near Racine, Wis., and four persons in a collision on icy pavement in morning fog near Green-up, Ill.

Fires took a heavy toll, including a rash of multiple death dwelling blazes. The worst single fire took the lives of a mother and eight of her children in a farmhouse near Auburn, Wash. The record number of holiday fire deaths was 111 in the four-day 1951 Christmas period.

This year's over-all accident death total compares with the record of 894 in the four-day 1956 Christmas weekend.

The over-all total also compares with the 552 reported in an Associated Press survey for a non-holiday test period from 6 p. m. Wednesday, Dec. 10, to midnight Sunday, Dec. 14. Included in the survey, made for comparative purposes, were 341 traffic deaths, 106 killed in fires and 105 deaths in miscellaneous type accidents.

## In The Day's News

**By FRANK JENKINS**

I seem to be hipped on the subject of communism these past few days. Maybe the Christmas season has something to do with it. If the world were all communist, THERE WOULD BE NO CHRISTMAS—and if there were no Christmas it would be a much drabber world.

So, at this bright and wonderful season, it may be that the dark and menacing thundercloud of communism becomes by contrast even darker and more menacing.

And— it may be— The brightness and the cheer and the wonder of the Christmas season are stimulating the communists to even greater propaganda efforts. At any rate, there has been a lot of communist news in the papers and on the air waves these past few days.

An interesting thought: Why are so many people (slightly unbalanced people, I'd say) so impressed with communism?

It must be because communism seems to promise freedom from RESPONSIBILITY. On the surface, at least, it appears to relieve us from the necessity to make decisions.

Making decisions means going out on a limb — deciding on a course of action and taking the consequences of the course one has decided upon. Communism seems to say LEAVE ALL THAT TO PAPA. Don't worry your poor little head about it.

Let's take a look at this red Chinese "commune" system that has been getting into the news of late.

It promises the people housing. The housing, to be sure, is in a beehive system of crowded little cells in which a whole family will live in a tiny room. But the tiny room is PROVIDED. The people don't have to hustle around and provide it for themselves.

Along with shelter, FOOD is provided. Not just rice. MEAT is promised also. No hustling around for it. When mealtime comes, the food will be there. Provided by PAPA. No worry about where it is to come from. Papa will take care of all that.

And, if one gets sick, there will be medicine and care — at least care of a sort. No worry about paying the doctor bill and the hos-

pital bill.

People talk glibly about what kind of cars they will have in 1970 and how long it will take to get to the moon. Williams told a Sunday Herald interviewer.

"My opinion is that you and I not to speak of the rest of the human race, won't be here by 1970. I think Armageddon is really at hand this time."

"We have speeded up time itself, travel in jets ... and talk seriously about living in outer space when we haven't yet learned to live on earth without fighting each other."

	MONTHLY EARNINGS	PRESENT BENEFITS	NEW BENEFITS
<b>RETIRED WORKER</b>			
\$ 50	\$ 30.00	\$ 33	
100	55.00	59	
150	68.50	73	
200	78.50	84	
250	88.50	95	
300	98.50	105	
350	108.50	116	
<b>RETIRED WORKER AND WIFE</b>			
\$ 50	45.00	49.50	
100	82.50	88.50	
150	102.80	109.50	
200	117.80	126.00	
250	132.80	142.50	
300	147.80	157.50	
350	162.80	174.00	
<b>WIDOW WITH CHILD OR PARENT</b>			
\$ 50	30.00	33.00	
100	41.30	44.30	
150	51.40	54.80	
200	58.90	63.00	
250	66.40	71.30	
300	73.90	78.80	
350	81.40	87.00	
<b>WIDOW WITH 2 CHILDREN</b>			
\$ 50	50.20	53.00	
100	82.60	88.50	
150	120.00	120.00	
200	157.10	161.60	
250	177.20	190.10	
300	197.10	210.20	
350	200.00	232.00	

**SOCIAL SECURITY** benefits are going up to meet the increased cost of living. This table shows the increase in broad brackets of the nation's 12 million retired persons. Increases are included in checks automatically and need not be applied for.



## SHOOTING HOURS:

<b>OREGON</b>	
December 30	
OPEN 7:05	CLOSE 4:43
<b>CALIFORNIA</b>	
December 30	
OPEN 7:04	CLOSE 4:40

## Yank Claims Innocence

**PARRIS ISLAND S.C. (AP)** — Marine Sgt. Ralph A. J. Grant pleaded innocent today of charges that he assaulted and solicited money from members of an Ohio recruit platoon.

Grant, 26-year-old Korean War veteran from Racine, Wis., could receive 9½ years in prison and dishonorable discharge if convicted on all four counts against him in his court-martial.

His trial is the first of three scheduled for drill instructors who last summer led the Steel Valley recruit platoon through its 12-week basic training cycle at this Marine training center.

One charge alleges he "intentionally inflicted grievous bodily harm" upon Pvt. Raymond E. Thiesler of Youngstown, Ohio, by hitting him on the head with a plastic mess cup causing a wound that required 11 stitches.

Grant and Sgt. Willard B. Poss of Augusta, Ga., are charged with accepting the money from the 69 members of the platoon. The two, along with Sgt. Ronald J. Heller of Milwaukee, Wis., also are charged with manhandling the rookie Marines.

## SSA To Hike Pay Schedule

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A couple of end-of-the-year reminders on Social Security changes that may affect your pocketbook:

Social Security deductions will take about an additional \$2 a month from the paychecks of most working Americans after the first of the year.

The new year will also bring increases of 7 per cent in the Social Security checks received by 12 million retired persons.

The changes were voted by the last Congress.

Government pension checks mailed in February will be 7 per cent higher than before, with a minimum increase of \$3. The maximum check for a retired man and his wife, both past 65, will climb from \$162.80 to \$174 monthly.

Active workers and employers will bear the cost of the increased benefits. The Social Security tax rate for each will go up from 2½ to 2½ per cent. The amount of annual earnings on which the tax is levied will be increased from \$4,200 to \$4,800 a year.

Workers earning the full \$4,800 must pay \$120 a year starting Thursday instead of the old total of \$94.50. This averages out to about \$2 monthly.

## Tijuana Police Quell Riot

**TIJUANA, Mexico (UPI)** — Police used live ammunition and tear gas to break up a wild riot which erupted among an estimated 1,000 persons attending a political meeting.

Some 35 persons sought medical help after the melee in which more than 30 automobiles were damaged.

Louis H. Alvarez, National Candidate Party (PAN) presidential candidate defeated in last July's elections, said "we, the PAN, will keep on fighting until we have finished the regime."

Alvarez, who was speaker at the large outdoor gathering (four blocks from main street) late Saturday when the riot exploded, addressed a meeting of 800 persons at Mexicali, Sunday, about 100 miles east of here.

Police said this two-hour meeting was peaceful.

## Climax Seems Near In Cuban Civil War

**HAVANA, Cuba (AP)** — Heavy fighting broke out today between Cuban government and rebel forces inside and around Santa Clara, capital of Las Villas province, well-informed sources reported.

The central Cuban city has been threatened by rebel encirclement. But a strong army drive was reported to be dislodging the rebels.

Unconfirmed reports said an important rebel leader was killed, and Fidel Castro's rebel forces suffered heavy casualties.

The army's offensive was said to be moving rapidly elsewhere in the province.

One unconfirmed report said Ernesto Guevara, extreme left-wing Argentine who is Castro's lieutenant in Las Villas, had been killed.

Both the government and Castro's rebels pushed for some sort of decisive victory within the coming week before the grinding season begins at sugar mills. Sugar is the backbone of Cuba's economy.

The United States has embargoed shipment of arms to the Cuban government in an attempt to remain neutral. As a result, Washington has been accused by the Cuban officials of helping the rebels, since a steady flow of arms is smuggled to Castro from the United States.

Despite rebel attempts to have populated places declared open cities, the government warned that it would make all-out counterattacks on towns held or threatened by the rebels.

A rebel exile organization in Miami said the planes bombed and strafed cities although the Army knew the rebels were camped outside the cities.

(In New York, another group of exiles reported Castro had broadcast an accusation that the Dominican Republic is "preparing an attack on Cuba" and 30 warplanes with Cuban markings are "ready to fly in order to begin a general invasion of the island.")

(The exiles said the purpose of the attack is to "provoke the intervention of the Organization of American States or some international organization to thwart an otherwise inevitable rebel victory.")

Rebel reports from Oriente indicated that the 10,000 Batista troops there were in desperate trouble.

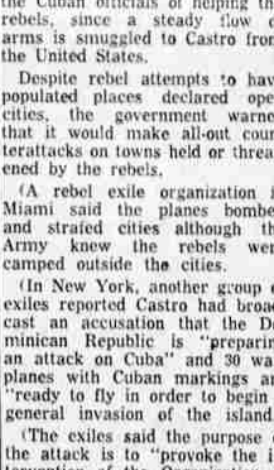
The insurgents claimed they captured the city of Palma Soriano, an important point on the main highway between Bayamo and Santiago, and inflicted 600 casualties on government forces. They said the highway from Bayamo to Santiago, a distance of about 75 miles, was under rebel control. Rebel casualties were put at 27 dead and 50 wounded.

The rebel broadcasts said a government battalion was holding out at Maffio, near the highway town of Contramaestre between Bayamo and Palma Soriano, but said it was surrounded and the town virtually destroyed.

(The 2,000-word letter of Vice Adm. Kiyohide Shima to 16-year-old Bill Frazer of Pacoima, Calif., broke the admiral's long silence on a mystery which has puzzled war historians.

Frazer had asked Shima why he pulled his forces out of the crucial battle of Leyte Gulf in October 1944. The youth will use the information in a history term paper in junior high school.

## Youth Learns Jap Strategy In World War



**WILLIAM McALLISTER**

Expressing gratitude for the admiral's response, young Frazer added: "I hope I get an A on the paper."

While U.S. forces were fighting for a foothold on Leyte Island, Shima withdrew the ships of his 2nd Division from a running sea battle in Surigao Strait.

The admiral wrote Frazer that the Japanese 1st Division of Vice Adm. Nishimura was destroyed by the Americans. Shima's own flagship, the heavy cruiser Nachi, was crippled by a collision with another Japanese cruiser and was limited to a top speed of 20 knots.

All factors made him decide the Americans were waiting for him in force.

"It was quite clear that we should only fall into a ready trap," Shima said. "I considered all such things — events, circumstances, possibilities. Then I came to my decision that it would be better to retreat from the strait and wait a chance to know how everything went."

The Los Angeles Examiner, which published the copyrighted letter, said it is "certain to become one of the great historical documents of the war in the Pacific."

In a preface to his answer, the admiral wrote: "I can even now assure you that my decisions and judgments of the day in Surigao Strait were adequate and proper ... I have never made any protest or any sort of thing against misunderstandings, for I believe that the truth would prove by itself in the long run of history."

"But this time," he continued, "I am deeply impressed by your eagerness and enthusiasm to find out the truth of the war in spite of your age."

**HELD FOR QUIZ**  
**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Seven men suspected of planning an attack on President-elect Romulo Betancourt were held today for questioning. The men were picked up while near Betancourt's house Saturday night. The President-elect was not at home.

## High Court Names Judge

**SALEM (AP)** — Justice William M. McAllister, 53, will be Oregon's chief justice during the next two years, the court announced today.

McAllister, who will succeed Chief Justice William C. Perry as head of the seven-member state Supreme Court, has been elected to the high post by his colleagues on the court.

McAllister was appointed to the court in August, 1956, by former Gov. Elmo Smith. McAllister succeeded the late Justice Earl C. Latourette, and won election to the office three months after he was appointed.

He was a Medford lawyer before being appointed to the court. Educated in Portland public schools, he was graduated from Willamette University and Willamette University Law School, and was admitted to the bar in 1928. He moved to Medford in 1931.

## World News In Brief

**ECONOMY** — London — Britain's pound sterling and currencies of 10 other Western European nations approaching free convertibility in most significant economic development since war.

**NEWSPAPERS** — New York — Nine major newspapers resume publication after deliverymen on strike nearly three weeks, vote to return to work.

**HOLIDAY** — Christmas holiday death toll expected to end up near estimate of 620 traffic fatalities.

**BERLIN** — Berlin — Moscow and East Germans boast of Soviet weapons, war of war if Communists don't get own way in Berlin.

**STOCKHOLDER** — Washington — Government's balance sheet on its assets and liabilities comes out almost even.

## Air Accident Fatal To One

**IPSWICH, England (UPI)** — One person was killed and several others injured today when a flaming U.S. Air Force jet fighter sliced through a group of houses and slammed into a garage at Kesgrave near here.

The pilot, 1st Lt. Charles L. Prescott, Santa Monica, Calif., ejected himself from the F100D Super Sabre and parachuted to safety before the crash. He was treated at a local hospital for shock and minor injuries.

Two houses and the garage were destroyed by fire, and several other houses and a group of unoccupied trailers were damaged. A number of dogs were killed when debris plunged into their kennel area.

## Newspaper Strike Ends As Deliverers On Job

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The costliest newspaper strike in the city's history is over.

Deliverers went back to work early today with a new two-year contract. It gave them a \$5.30 wage increase and fringe benefits. They ratified it Sunday, 2:09-5:37, ending the 29-day walkout.

The strike cost estimated at \$0 million dollars.

All four morning newspapers published. Editions began hitting the streets of this news-starved city about 2 a. m., four hours after the strike's end.

## Author Blasts Human Frailties

**MIAMI, Fla. (AP)** — Playwright Tennessee Williams gives the human race 10 years if it doesn't settle down in amily.

"People talk glibly about what kind of cars they will have in 1970 and how long it will take to get to the moon," Williams told a Sunday Herald interviewer.

"My opinion is that you and I not to speak of the rest of the human race, won't be here by 1970. I think Armageddon is really at hand this time."

"We have speeded up time itself, travel in jets ... and talk seriously about living in outer space when we haven't yet learned to live on earth without fighting each other."

## Traders Exhibit Confidence in French Economy

**PARIS (AP)** — Stock traders showed confidence today in the government's program for a New Year's housecleaning of French economy. Gold and French stock issues steadied with slight rises in the first session after the devaluation of the franc.

Though ordinary folks received the news of cheaper money, fewer subsidies, higher prices and increased taxes with a sense of shock, optimism was reflected among stock market professionals.

French values went up by only 3 to 5 per cent and foreign values, which were expected to adjust automatically to the 17.55 per cent cut in the value of the franc, went down only 3 to 5 per cent.

## Weather

**FORECAST** — Klamath Falls and vicinity: Partly cloudy through Tuesday. Low tonight 22-25; high Tuesday 38-44.

High yesterday — 34  
Low last night — 24  
Precip. last 24 hours — 0.14  
Since Oct. 1 — 1.82  
Same period last year — 7.92  
Normal for period — 4.62

**Northern California** — Fair through Tuesday except cloudy in the north. Patches of fog in valleys in early morning. Southerly coastal winds 10-15 miles an hour from Eureka northward.

**Five Day Forecasts:**  
**Eastern Oregon** — Temperatures averaging above normal with the high temperatures generally 35-45. Minimums mostly in the 20s. Precipitation more than normal with the total up to half an inch.

**Northern California** — No precipitation except possible rain north portion latter half of period with snow in mountains; temperatures near normal; normal minimum-maximum Sacramento 39-51, Red Bluff 37-52, Eureka 41-54, Blue Canyon 31-45 and Santa Rosa 35-57.

Pinay outlined the elimination or sharp trimming of subsidies that are intertwined through the French economy.

These included some schemes reminiscent of the U.S. agricultural programs. No longer will France pay farmers to uproot their own apple trees to trim production.

Another, Pinay said the new French budget stripped some 268 billion francs—\$45 million dollars—in subsidies from the previous year's figures.

Pinay announced detailed cuts in social security and medical benefits. Pensions of war veterans who are not jobless, disabled or retired were trimmed sharply.

The workers' pay envelopes will also record greater withdrawals for social security. The employees' share will also be increased.

De Gaulle wants to launch to better the lot of the Moslems.

The little he promised to brighten the dark picture included a raise in the lowest minimum wage levels, and increases in unemployment benefits to bring jobless pay to the minimum wage. There was also indication of improved hospitals, housing and schools.

De Gaulle said the revolt of the colonials and the army in Algeria last May, which brought him back to power, actually resulted "from the general conviction that the public powers were impotent against the wave of menaces, which comprised, naturally, those striking our economy."

"The confidence of the country," he continued, "has permitted us, in this realm as in others, to reverse the tendency and ward off the most threatening. However, the situation remains precarious, that is to say, dangerous.

The franc now drops from a rate of 420 to the dollar to 493. This means that French goods sold abroad should sell for 17.5 per cent less, but Frenchmen in turn will have to pay 17.5 per cent more for what they import.

Since France is a big importer of raw materials, hardly any item on French store shelves will be spared a small rise in price.

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